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December 11, 1903

demics. Camagey (Puerto Principe) was the healthiest town during the month with only 20 deaths, or at the rate of 9.48 per thousand of population, while Santiago de Cuba, which not long ago was the unhealthiest city in this hemisphere, comes second with 157 deaths, equivalent to 12.81 per thousand. As far as could be ascertained the total number of deaths on the island during the month amounted to 1,641, or an annual death rate of 15.87 per thousand of population.

The only unpleasant feature of the report is its recognition that scarlatina, which has existed in Habana since the beginning of the year in a sporadic form, has acquired an epidemic character. In July there were 51 cases, in August 62, and in September 107, with 4, 5, and 6 deaths, respectively. This disease up to recent years was almost unknown in Cuba and the department of sanitation is of the opinion that this epidemic has been imported from the United States. Since the publication of the report the epidemic has become greatly extended and has assumed alarming proportions, there being at one time in this city more than 620 cases under treatment. The epidemic has been confined almost entirely to children under 15 years of age, and the deaths very few (26 in October and 35 up to date in November). The department of sanitation has taken the most stringent measures to combat the epidemic. Most of the schools have been closed; municipal ordinances have been issued forbidding children to congregate in the parks, theaters, and other public places; parents have been advised to keep their children as much at home as possible, and houses in which there were cases of scarlatina have been placed under quarantine and compelled to keep their doors and windows closed. The epidemic at the present moment seems to be on the decrease, although at this date there are still 566 cases under treatment. The rest of the island appears to be still free from scarlatina.

Report from Matanzas—Sporadic diphtheria.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Nunez reports, December 1, as follows:
Week ended November 28, 1903. Four bills of health were issued to vessels leaving for ports in the United States, all in good sanitary condition.

One case of diphtheria, with a fatal termination, was reported during the past week. The premises were subjected to the usual disinfection immediately afterwards. It is to be noted, as will be seen by my previous reports, that sporadic cases of this disease often appear in different sections of this city without there being any possible communication between them, since they are strictly isolated in every instance. Their occurrence, in my opinion, is due to the fact that among certain classes of people live stock of fowls is generally kept in their yards during the whole year. In these animals the Klebs-Löffler bacillus is known to thrive, thus furnishing the agent for the contagium. The attention of the local health authorities has been called to the subject, and it is probable that some measures will be taken in the near future to do away with this nuisance, the suppression of which will evidently tend to improve in every respect the sanitary condition of dwellings as has been accomplished in some other cities of this island.

Following are the mortality statistics of Matanzas for the last ten days of November, 1903:

	Number of deaths.	Bertillon number.
Arterio-sclerosis	2	81
Enteritis	1	105
Bright's disease	1	120
Tuberculosis	6	27
Uremia	1	120
Cancer of tongue	1	39
Cirrhosis of liver	1	112
Diphtheria	1	9
Hemorrhage, cerebral	1	64
Organic lesions of heart (unclassified)	2	79
Pneumonia	1	93
Asthenia, cardiac	1	179
Total	19

Estimated population, 48,000; annual rate of mortality per 1,000, 14.44. No quarantinable disease has been reported.

Report from Santiago—Disinfection of British ship Alton from Rio de Janeiro.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Wilson reports, December 1, as follows:
Week ended November 28, 1903: Bills of health issued to three vessels bound for the United States and Porto Rico. No quarantinable disease has been reported.

The British steamship *Alton* arrived from Rio de Janeiro last week and was disinfected and ordered ten days' detention in quarantine before being granted free pratique. After the disinfection they found 110 dead rats on board. There has been no sickness on board.

Mortality statistics for the week ended November 28, 1903.

Causes of death.	Number.
Malignant pustule	1
Tubercle of lungs	1
Chronic myelitis	1
Cerebral hemorrhage	1
Organic heart disease	1
Cirrhosis of the liver	1
Peritonitis	1
Nephritis, acute	1
Icterus neonatorum	1
Ill-defined or unspecified	2
Total	11

Annual rate of mortality for the week, 12.57 per 1,000. Estimated population, 45,500.

GERMANY.

Report from Berlin—Plague and cholera in various countries.

Consul-General Mason reports, November 21, as follows:

Plague.

Egypt.—During the period from October 31 to November 6 there were registered in Alexandria 2 fresh cases of plague and 3 deaths.

British India.—During the week ended October 24 there were reg-